

Appl. No. : ~~Unknown~~  
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A1  
Another aspect of the invention involves an apparatus for continuous metering of bulk material from a container. The apparatus includes a rotary-vane feeder, a metering device configured to receive material from the rotary-vane feeder, and a metering controller coupled to the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device, wherein mass flow at the rotary-vane feeder is greater than a discharge rate of the metering device for partial return feed of the bulk material to the container.--

On page 2, line 13, please delete this sentence.

On page 2, between lines 13 and 14, please insert --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

On page 2, between lines 19 and 20, please insert --Detailed Description of the Invention--

On page 5, line 1, please replace "CLAIMS" with --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-9 without prejudice.

Please add the following new Claims:

10. A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device following the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary vane; and

adjusting a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the container takes place.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said adjusting takes into account a filling state of an intermediate container between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

13. The method of Claim 10, further comprising using is a pneumatic feed, and altering at least one of an air amount and an air speed to regulate discharge of the metering device.

14. An apparatus for continuous metering of bulk material from a container, comprising:

a rotary-vane feeder;

a metering device configured to receive material from the rotary-vane feeder; and

a metering controller coupled to the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device,

wherein mass flow at the rotary-vane feeder is greater than a discharge rate of the metering device for partial return feed of the bulk material to the container.